

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N.E.W.S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES AZ LEARNS PROFILES:

PHOENIX (Embargoed until Wednesday, October 8, 2008) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announces the release of the AZ Learns profiles for 1,875 schools. The components for evaluating schools in determining their annual AZ Learns profiles are: AIMS/Dual Purpose Assessment (DPA) scores; Measure of Academic Progress; Graduation/Dropout rates (HS); reclassification of ELL students; and their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Horne stated: "From 2007 to 2008 Arizona schools have remained statistically consistent in their performance on their AZ Learns achievement profiles. The achievement profiles are the best way to measure how a school is performing from one year to the next. The architecture of the Arizona accountability system is far superior to the Federal system, No Child Left Behind. No Child Left Behind has 253 categories and if a school performs spectacularly on 252 and fails one, the whole school fails. The Arizona system, by contrast, is a comprehensive, fair and accurate assessment tool."

Horne added: "Those seeking to attract businesses to Arizona can make use of the 571 highly performing and excelling schools listed on the ADE website www.azed.gov. Every school has a detailed report card which shows that these 571 schools can compete in national test results with any school in the state the business is thinking of relocating from."

The numbers of schools in each category for 2008 are: failing to meet academic standards 20; underperforming 158; performing 734; performing plus 392; highly performing 250; and excelling 321.

For more information about your schools profile, go to www.azed.gov and click on 2008 AZ Learns profiles in the Hot Topics section of the home page.

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